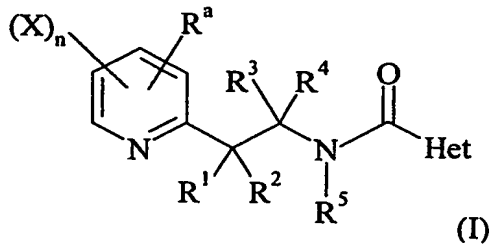
CLAIMS

1. A compound of general formula (I)



(I)

in which :

- n is 1, 2 or 3;
- R^a is a C_1-C_6-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms;
- each substituent X is chosen, independently of the others, as being a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a C_1-C_6-alkyl or a C_1-C_6-halogenoalkyl;
- R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 are chosen, independently of the others as being a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a hydroxy group, an amino group, a sulfanyl group, a formyl group, a formyloxy group, a formylamino group, a carboxy group, a carbamoyl group, a N-hydroxycarbamoyl group, a carbamate group, a (hydroxyimino)-C_1-C_6-alkyl group, a C_1-C_6-alkyl, a C_2-C_6-alkenyl, a C_2-C_6-alkynyl, a C_1-C_6-alkylamino, a di-C_1-C_6-alkylamino, a C_1-C_6-alkoxy, a C_1-C_6-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C_1-C_6-halogenoalkoxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C_1-C_6-alkylsulfanyl, a C_1-C_6-halogenoalkylsulfanyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C_2-C_6-alkenyloxy, a C_2-C_6-halogenoalkenyloxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C_3-C_6-alkynyloxy, a C_3-C_6-halogenoalkynyloxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C_3-C_6-cycloalkyl, a C_3-C_6-halogenocycloalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C_1-C_6-alkylcarbonyl, a C_1-C_6-halogenoalkylcarbonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C_1-C_6-alkylcarbamoyl, a di-C_1-C_6-alkylcarbamoyl, a N-C_1-C_6-alkyloxycarbamoyl, a C_1-C_6-alkoxycarbamoyl, a N-C_1-C_6-alkyl-C_1-C_6-alkoxycarbamoyl, a C_1-C_6-alkoxycarbonyl, a C_1-C_6-halogenoalkoxycarbonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C_1-C_6-alkylcarbonyloxy, a C_1-C_6-halogenoalkylcarbonyloxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C_1-C_6-alkylcarbonylamino, a C_1-C_6-halogenoalkylcarbonylamino having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C_1-C_6-alkylaminocarbonyloxy, a di-C_1-C_6-alkylaminocarbonyloxy, a C_1-C_6-alkyloxycarbonyloxy, a C_1-C_6-alkylsulphenyl, a C_1-C_6-halogenoalkylsulphenyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C_1-C_6-alkylsulphinyl, a C_1-

C_6-halogenoalkylsulphinyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C_1-C_6-alkylsulphonyl, a C_1-C_6-halogenoalkylsulphonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a benzyl, a benzyloxy, a benzylsulfanyl, a benzylsulfinyl, a benzylsulfonyl, a benzylamino, a phenoxy, a phenylsulfanyl, a phenylsulfinyl, a phenylsulfonyl, a phenylamino, a phenylcarbonylamino, a 2,6 dichlorophenyl-carbonylamino group or a phenyl group; or R^1 and R^2 may form together a cyclopropyl, a cylcobutyl, a cyclopentyl or a cyclohexyl;

with the proviso that when three of the four substituents R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 are a hydrogen atom, then the fourth substituent is not a hydrogen atom;

- R^5 is chosen as being a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, a formyl group, a hydroxy group, a C_1-C_6-alkyl, a C_1-C_6-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C_1-C_6-alkoxy, a C_1-C_6-halogenoalkoxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C_3-C_6-cycloalkyl, a C_3-C_6-halogenocycloalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C_2-C_6-alkenyl, a C_2-C_6-alkynyl, a C_1-C_6-alkoxy-C_1-C_6-alkyl, a C_1-C_6-cyanoalkyl, a C_1-C_6-aminoalkyl, a C_1-C_6-alkylamino-C_1-C_6-alkyl, a di-C_1-C_6-alkylamino-C_1-C_6-alkyl, a C_1-C_6-alkylcarbonyl, a C_1-C_6-halogenalkylcarbonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C_1-C_6-alkyloxycarbonyl, a C_3-C_7-cycloalkyl, a C_3-C_7-halogenocycloalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C_3-C_7 -cycloalkyl-C_1-C_6-alkyl, a C_1-C_6-benzyloxycarbonyl, a C_1-C_6-alkoxy-C_1-C_6-alkylcarbonyl, a C_1-C_6-alkylsulfonyl or a C_1-C_6-halogenoalkylsulfonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms; and

- Het represents a 5-, 6- or 7-membered non-fused heterocycle with one, two or three heteroatoms which may be the same or different, Het being linked by a carbon atom and being at least substituted in ortho position;

as well as its salts, N-oxydes, metallic complexes, metalloidic complexes and optically active isomers.

2. A compound according to claim 1, characterised in that n is 1 or 2.

3. A compound according to claim 1 or 2, characterised in that X is a halogen atom.

4. A compound according to claim 3, characterised in that X is chlorine.

5. A compound according to any of the claims 1 to 4, characterised in that R^a is $-CF_3$.

6. A compound according to any of the claims 1 to 5, characterised in that the 2-pyridyl is substituted in 3- and/or in 5-position.

7. A compound according to claim 6, characterised in that the 2-pyridyl is substituted in 3-position by X and in 5-position by R^a.

8. A compound according to any of the claims 1 to 7, characterised in that the 2-pyridyl is substituted in 3-position by -Cl and in 5-position by $-CF_3$.

9. A compound according to any of the claims 1 to 8, characterised in that R^1 and R^2 are chosen, independently of each other, as being a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a hydroxy group, a C_1-C_6-alkyl, a C_1-C_6-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C_2-C_6-alkenyl, a C_1-C_6-alkoxy, a C_1-C_6-alkylsulfanyl, a C_1-C_6-alkylsulfenyl, a C_1-C_6-alkylsulfinyl, a C_1-C_6-alkoxycarbonyl, a C_1-C_6-alkylcarbonylamino, a C_1-C_6-alkoxycarbonyloxy, a C_1-C_6-alkoxycarbonylamino or a phenyl group.

10. A compound according to claim 9, characterised in that R^1 and R^2 are chosen, independently of each other, as being a halogen atom, a C_1-C_6-alkyl, a C_1-C_6-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms or a C_1-C_6-alkylcarbonylamino.

11. A compound according to any of the claims 1 to 10, characterised in that R^3 and R^4 are chosen, independently of each other, as being a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a C_1-C_6-alkyl, a C_1-C_6-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a C_1-C_6-alkylcarbonylamino or a phenyl group.

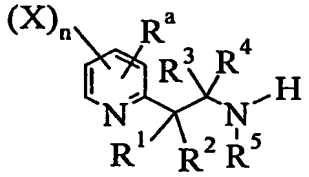
12. A compound according to claim 11, characterised in that R^3 and R^4 are chosen, independently of each other, as being a halogen atom, a C_1-C_6-alkyl, a C_1-C_6-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms or a phenyl group.

13. A compound according to any of the claims 1 to 12, characterised in that R^5 is a hydrogen atom or a C_3-C_7-cycloalkyl.

14. A compound according to any of the claims 1 to 13, characterised in that Het is a five membered ring heterocycle.

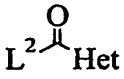
15. A compound according to any of the claims 1 to 13, characterised in that Het is a six membered ring heterocycle.

16. A process for the preparation of a compound of general formula (I) as defined in any of the claims 1 to 15, which comprises reacting a 2-pyridine derivative of general formula (II) or one of its salt :



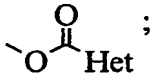
(II)

in which X, n, R^a, R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 are as in any of the preceding claims; with a carboxylic acid derivative of the general formula (III)



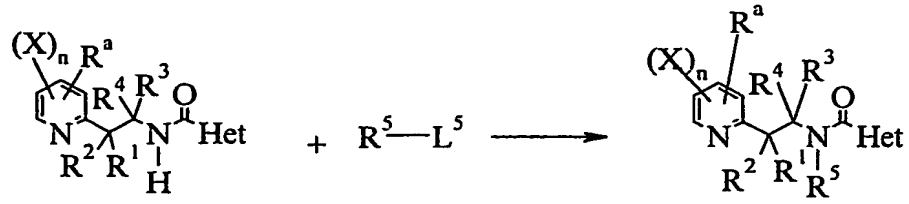
(III)

in which :

- Het is as defined in any of the preceding claims ; and
- L^2 is a leaving group chosen as being a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, $-OR^6$, $-OCOR^6$, R^6 being a C_1-C_6 alkyl, a C_1-C_6 haloalkyl, a benzyl, 4-methoxybenzyl, pentafluorophenyl or a group of formula  ;

in the presence of a catalyst and, if L^2 is a hydroxyl group, in the presence of a condensing agent.

17. A process according to claim 16, characterised in that R^5 is a hydrogen atom and that the process is completed by a further step according to the following reaction scheme :



(Id) (XXII) (I)

in which : - R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^a, X, n and Het are as defined in any of the claims 1 to 15;

- L^5 is a leaving group chosen as being a halogen atom, a 4-methyl phenylsulfonyloxy or a methylsulfonyloxy;

comprising the reaction of a compound of general formula (Id) with a compound of general formula (XXII) to provide a compound of general formula (I).

18. A fungicidal composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to any of the claims 1 to 15 and an agriculturally acceptable support.

19. A method for preventively or curatively combating the phytopathogenic fungi of crops, characterised in that an effective and non-phytotoxic amount of a composition according to claim 18 is applied to the plant seeds or to the plant leaves and/or to the fruits of the plants or to the soil in which the plants are growing or in which it is desired to grow them.